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In the Claims:

1   1.   [Original] A data management system comprising:

2   a data storage system configured to store data of a plurality of client

3   protected computer systems, wherein the data storage system comprises a

4   plurality of storage devices individually having a respective capacity, and a

5   quantity of the data of the protected computer systems to be stored exceeds

6   capacities of individual ones of the storage devices; and

7   storage control circuitry coupled with the data storage system and

8   configured to assign individual ones of the individual storage devices to store

9   data for respective ones of the protected computer systems.

1   2.   [Currently Amended] The system of claim 1 wherein the storage

2   control circuitry is configured to receive a request to add a new protected

3   computer system and to assign only one of the storage devices to implement

4   data storage operations with respect to the new protected computer system

5   responsive to the request.

1   3.   [Currently Amended] The system of claim 2 wherein the storage

2   control circuitry is configured to monitor a status of at least one of the storage

3   devices the one storage device and to assign the one storage device for the new

4   protected computer system responsive to the monitoring.

1   4.   [Currently Amended] The system of claim 3 wherein the

2   monitoring comprises monitoring a processing capacity of an archive agent of

3   the at least one storage device.

1   5.   [Currently Amended] The system of claim 3 wherein the

2   monitoring comprises monitoring a storage capacity of physical storage space of

3   the at least one storage device.

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1   6.   [Currently Amended]   The system of claim 3 wherein the

2   monitoring comprises monitoring a status of a plurality of the storage devices,

3   and the assigning comprises assigning the one storage device having which has

4   a greatest available capacity responsive to the monitoring.

1   7.   [Original] The system of claim 1 wherein entireties of the data for

2   the protected computer systems are stored using respective assigned ones of

3   the storage devices.

1   8.   [Original] The system of claim 7 wherein the entireties of the data

2   comprise an entirety of baseline data and associated delta data for the

3   respective protected computer systems.

1   9.   [Original] The system of claim 1 wherein the storage control

2   circuitry is configured to assign a plurality of the storage devices to store an

3   entirety of the data for one of the protected computer systems.

1   10.   [Original]   The system of claim 1 wherein the storage control

2   circuitry comprises a tracking database configured to store associations of the

3   storage devices with respective ones of the protected computer systems.

1   11.   [Original]   The system of claim 1 wherein the storage devices

2   comprise disk storage devices.

1   12.   [Original]   The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the

2   storage devices is configured to store data for a plurality of the protected

3   computer systems.

1   13.   [Original]   The system of claim 1 wherein the storage devices

2   individually comprise an archive agent and a storage space.

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1   14.   [Original]   The system of claim 1 wherein the storage control
2   circuitry comprises a master cell manager and at least one slave cell manager,
3   and wherein the master cell manager is configured to assign one of the
4   protected computer systems to one of the storage devices associated with the
5   at least one slave cell manager.

1   15.   [Original]   The system of claim 1 wherein one of the storage
2   devices is configured to transfer data for one of the protected computer systems
3   to an other of the storage devices.

1   16.   [Currently Amended] A data management system comprising:
2   plural means for storing electronic data, wherein individual ones of the
3   plural means for storing comprise a respective data storage capacity;
4   means for communicating data intermediate the plural ~~storage~~ means <u>for</u>
5   <u>storing</u> and a plurality of client protected computer systems, wherein a quantity
6   of data of the client protected computer systems exceeds individual data storage
7   capacities of individual ones of the means for storing; and
8   means for assigning individual ones of the means for storing to store data
9   for respective ones of the client protected computer systems.

1   17.   [Original]   The system of claim 16 wherein the plural means for
2   storing individually comprise means for storing an entirety of the data for a
3   respective one of the client protected computer systems.

1   18.   [Original]   The system of claim 16 wherein plural ones of the
2   means for storing comprise means for storing an entirety of the data for a
3   respective one of the client protected computer systems.

1   19.   [Original]   The system of claim 16 further comprising tracking
2   means for storing information regarding associations of individual ones of the
3   plural means for storing with respective ones of the client protected computer
4   systems.

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1   20.   [Original] The system of claim 16 wherein the plural means for

2   storing individually comprise archive means and physical storage means.

1   21.   [Currently Amended] An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a processor-usable medium comprising processor-usable code configured

3   to cause processing circuitry of storage control circuitry to:

4   access information regarding a plurality of storage devices;

5   access information regarding a plurality of client protected

6   computer systems;

7   associate individual ones of the protected computer systems with

8   respective ones of the storage devices;

9   receive a request to add a new protected computer system;

10   monitor capacities of the storage devices; and

11   assign the new protected computer <u>system</u> to one of the storage

12   devices responsive to the monitoring.

1   22.   [Original] The article of claim 21 wherein the processor-usable

2   code is configured to cause the processing circuitry to associate responsive to

3   user input.

1   23.   [Original] The article of claim 21 wherein the processor-usable

2   code is configured to cause the processing circuitry to associate responsive to

3   the monitoring.

1   24.   [Original] A data storage method comprising:

2   providing a plurality of storage devices configured to store data for a

3   plurality of client protected computer systems, wherein the storage devices

4   individually comprise processing circuitry and a storage space;

5   monitoring capacities of individual ones of the storage devices;

6   associating one of the protected computer systems with one of the

7   storage devices responsive to the monitoring; and

8   implementing storage operations of the data for the associated one of the

9   protected computer systems using the associated one of the storage devices in

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10   accordance with the associating.

1   25.   [Original] The method of claim 24 wherein a quantity of data of

2   the protected computer systems to be stored exceeds individual capacities of

3   individual ones of the storage devices.

1   26.   [Original] The method of claim 24 further comprising maintaining a

2   record of the association of the one storage device and the one client protected

3   computer system.

1   27.   [Original]   The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring

2   comprises monitoring storage capacities of the storage devices.

1   28.   [Original]   The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring

2   comprises monitoring processing capacities of the storage devices.

1   29.   [Original]   The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring and

2   assigning comprise monitoring and assigning using storage control circuitry.

1   30.   [Original] The method of claim 29 further comprising providing the

2   storage control circuitry comprising a distributed control system.

1   31.   [Original]   The method of claim 24 wherein the associating

2   comprises associating the one protected computer system with the one storage

3   device having a greatest available capacity.

1   32.   [Original] The method of claim 24 further comprising transferring

2   at least a portion of the data of the one protected computer system from the

3   one storage device to an other storage device.

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1   33.   [Currently Amended] A data storage method comprising:

2   <u>providing</u> a plurality of storage devices <u>of a data management system</u>

3   configured to store data for a plurality of client protected computer systems,

4   <u>wherein</u> the storage devices individually ~~comprising~~ <u>comprise</u> processing

5   circuitry <u>and wherein the storage devices are external of the protected computer</u>

6   <u>systems</u>;

7   storing the data using the storage devices;

8   monitoring capacities of the storage devices using storage control

9   circuitry;

10   providing a new storage device configured to store data for at least one

11   of the protected computer systems; and

12   coupling processing circuitry of the new storage device with the storage

13   control circuitry.

1   34.   [Original] The method of claim 33 further comprising monitoring

2   capacity of the new storage device using the storage control circuitry after the

3   coupling.

1   35.   [Original]   The method of claim 33 wherein the monitoring

2   comprises monitoring processing capacities of the storage devices.

1   36.   [Original]   The method of claim 33 wherein the monitoring

2   comprises monitoring storage capacities of the storage devices.

1   37.   [New] The system of claim 1 wherein the protected computer

2   systems are external of the data management system.

1   38.   [New] The system of claim 1 wherein the protected computer

2   systems are associated with respective different entities and the protected

3   computer systems are independent and not associated with one another.

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1   39.   [New]   The system of claim 1   wherein the plurality of storage
2   devices individually comprise processing circuitry and a physical storage space,
3   and the processing circuitry of the·storage devices are configured to control
4   storage operations of respective ones of the physical storage spaces.

1   40.   [New]   The system of claim 39 wherein the storage devices are
2   associated with one another and the storage control circuitry is configured to
3   implement data storage operations with respect to individual ones of the storage
4   devices.

1   41.   [New] The article of claim 21 wherein the storage control circuitry
2   and the plurality of storage devices are components of a data management
3   system which is configured to store data of the plurality of protected computer
4   systems, and wherein the protected computer systems are external of the data
5   management system and the storage devices.

1   42.   [New] The method of claim 24 wherein the providing the plurality
2   of storage devices comprises providing the storage devices of a data
3   management system external of the protected computer systems, and. further
4   comprising:
5   storing data using storage circuitry of the protected computer systems;
6   and
7   storing the data of the protected computer systems using respective ones
8   of the storage devices associated with the protected computer systems.

1   43.   [New] An electrical system comprising:
2   a plurality of client protected computer systems individually comprising
3   processing circuitry configured to process data and storage circuitry configured
4   to store the data; and
5   a data management system comprising:
6   a data storage system configured to store the data of the protected
7   computer systems, wherein the data storage system comprises a plurality of
8   storage devices individually having a respective capacity, and a quantity of the

9   data of the protected computer systems to be stored by the data management

10   system exceeds capacities of individual ones of the storage devices; and

11   storage control circuitry coupled with the data storage system and

12   configured to assign individual ones of the individual storage devices to store

13   data for respective ones of the protected computer systems.

1   44.   [New]   The system of claim 43 wherein the storage devices

2   individually comprise:

3   a physical storage space configured to store the data of a respective one

4   of the protected computer systems; and

5   processing circuitry configured to control storage of the data of the

6   respective protected computer system associated with the individual storage

7   device in the respective physical storage space of the individual storage device.

1   45.   [New]   The system of claim 43 wherein the storage control

2   circuitry is configured to associate the individual storage devices with respective

3   ones of the protected computer systems using information regarding capacities

4   of the storage devices.

1   46.   [New]   The system of claim 43 wherein entireties of the data of

2   the protected computer systems are individually stored by the respective

3   assigned ones of the individual storage devices.